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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/037,940	01/04/2002	Tatsuo Nomura	70904/56,872	7762
21874	7590	02/06/2008	EXAMINER	
EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE LLP			BURLESON, MICHAEL L	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/037,940	NOMURA ET AL.
	Examiner Michael Burleson	Art Unit 2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 5 and 7-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 5 and 7-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 8-12, filed 11/07/2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 5-27 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Nomura et al. US 7173724.
2. In response to Applicant's remarks filed 05/21/2007 that the reference of Nomura fails to teach of that the printer interface changes it's display state or it's ability to accept inputs in response to user input at the other scanner interface, Examiner stated that Nomura was deficient in this limitation. Upon further review Nomura teaches that the printer display section (221) stops displaying information based on input of the scanner (3) (column 10, lines 25-36).
3. Applicant states that the reference of Colbert fails to teach that one display does not change its state when a command is entered at the other display (Applicant's remarks page 9). Examiner agrees with Applicant. Nomura teaches that the printer display section (221) stops displaying information based on input of the scanner (3) (column 10, lines 30-36).
4. Regarding claim 10, Applicant states that Examiner alleges that Colbert and Nomura fails to teach "in a combined use of said printer unit and said scanner unit, said display section of said printer unit is set to be effective if a predetermined condition is satisfied, and if not, only said scanner unit is set to be effective in displaying information

regarding the combined use of said printer unit and said scanner unit (11)" (Applicant's remarks page 10). Examiner agrees with Applicant with respect to the reference of Colbert. With respect to Nomura, upon further review, Nomura teaches printer user interface section becomes inoperative when the scanner (500) is connected (column 14, lines 19-30).

5. Applicant states that Nomura does not teach the printer unit is invisible to the user (Applicant's remarks page 11). Examiner disagrees with Applicant. Nomura teaches printer user interface section becomes inoperative when the scanner (500) is connected (column 14, lines 19-30). If the printer user interface section becomes inactive when the scanner is detected, the user interface of the printer cannot be seen by the user because it is inactive.

6. Applicant states that Nomura fails to teach of "said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that in response to an operation input entered by a specific user interface section, other user interface section than said specific user interface section change its input acceptance state" (Applicant's remarks page 11). Nomura teaches the printer display section (221) stops displaying information based on input of the scanner (3) (column 10, lines 25-36).

7. Claims 5, 7-26 are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 5,7-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Nomura US 7173724

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application.

Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

1. Regarding claim 5, Nomura teaches of an image processing apparatus, comprising: a printer unit equipped with a user interface section having a first display section and a scanner unit equipped with a user interface having a second display section (column 6, lines 27-30; fig 2; column 9, lines 24-33; column 10, lines 22-24). Nomura teaches wherein said user interface section of said printer unit and said user interface section of said scanner unit are arranged such that in response to a command

entered by one of these user interface sections, the other user interface section changes its display state to be in a non-display state (column 10, lines 25-36).

2. Regarding claim 7, Nomura teaches said user interface section of said scanner unit is used in displaying information regarding a processing of image data and entering commands regarding the processing of image data, for both said printer unit and said scanner unit (column 9, lines 24-29).

3. Regarding claim 8, Nomura teaches in response to a command entered by said user interface section of said scanner unit, said user interface section of said printer unit changes its display state (column 10, lines 29-36)

4. Regarding claim 9, Nomura teaches when a command to execute a processing to be performed by said printer unit is entered by said user interface section of said scanner unit, said user interface section of said printer unit displays information regarding contents of the command (column 13, lines 9-14).

5. Regarding claim 10, Nomura teaches an image processing apparatus, comprising: an independently operable scanner unit equipped with a display section and a display control section; an independently operable printer unit equipped with a display section and a display control section, wherein said scanner unit and said printer unit are provided as separate members and said display control sections of said scanner unit and said printer unit cooperatively control said display sections of said scanner unit and said printer unit such that: in an independent use of said printer unit, said display section of said printer unit is set to be effective (column 6, lines 27-30; fig 2; column 9, lines 24-33; column 10, lines 22-24). Nomura teaches in a combined use of said

printer unit and said scanner unit, said display section of said printer unit is set to be effective if a predetermined condition is satisfied, and if not, only said display section of said scanner unit is set to be effective in displaying information regarding the combined use of said printer unit and said scanner unit (column 14, lines 19-30).

6. Regarding claim 11, Nomura teaches said display section of said scanner unit is a large size display unit capable of displaying graphics (column 10,lines 20-25)

7. Regarding claim 12, Nomura discloses said printer unit includes a shielding member for shielding said display section to be invisible by a user when said display control section controls said display section of said printer unit to be ineffective (fig 2)

8. Regarding claim 13, Nomura teaches said predetermined condition is that information to be displayed in said printer unit is different from the information regarding the combined use of said printer unit and said scanner unit (column 10,lines 29-33)

9. Regarding claim 14, Nomura teaches said predetermined condition is that some failure has occurred in said scanner unit or in any other unit to be used in combination with said printer unit, and said display control section controls said display section of said printer unit to display a state of the failure occurred in said scanner unit or in any other unit (column 16,lines 30-33)

10. Regarding claim 15, Nomura teaches an input section for said display section of said scanner unit and an input section for said display section of said printer unit, wherein said display control section of said scanner unit permits an input operation by said input section of said scanner unit when said display section of said scanner unit is effective and said display control section of said printer unit permits an input operation

by said input section of said printer unit when said display section of said printer unit is effective (column 15,lines 19-38)

11. Regarding claim 16, Nomura teaches said predetermined condition is that an input operation is performed by said input section of said printer unit, and said display control section of said printer unit controls said display section of said printer unit to display information regarding said printer unit (column 10,lines 20-24)

12. Regarding claim 17, Nomura teaches said predetermined condition is that a failure has occurred in said scanner unit and said display control section of said printer unit controls said display section of said printer unit to display a state of said scanner unit (column 16,lines 30-33)

13. Regarding claim 18, Nomura teaches said display control section of said printer unit controls said display section of said printer unit to display the state of said scanner unit and the state of said printer unit alternately (column 16,lines 34-45)

14. Regarding claim 19, Nomura teaches an image processing apparatus, comprising: an independently operable scanner unit equipped with a display section; an independently operable printer unit equipped with a display section, wherein said scanner unit and said printer unit are provided as separate members, said display section of said scanner unit is a large size display unit capable of displaying graphics, said display section being provided on a front surface side of said scanner unit; said display section of said printer unit is provided on an upper surface on a back surface side of said printer unit; and in a combined use of said printer unit and said scanner unit,

said scanner unit is provided above said printer unit, and said display section of said printer unit is invisible by a user (column 10, lines 25-36).

15. Regarding claim 20, Nomura teaches an image processing section for carrying out a processing of image data; and a plurality of user interface sections for displaying information regarding said processing of image data and for entering inputs on said processing of image data, (column 6,lines27-30; fig 2; column 9,lines 24-33;column 10,lines 22-24;column 14,lines 52-67). Nomura teaches wherein said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that in response to an operation input entered by a specific user interface section, other user interface section (s) than said specific user interface section change (s) its (their) input acceptance state (s) (column 10, lines 25-36).

16. Regarding claim 21, Nomura teaches said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that input acceptance of said other user interface section(s) than the specific user interface section is validated in response to the operation input entered by said specific user interface section (column 14,lines 51-67)

17. Regarding claim 22, Nomura teaches said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that in response to the operation input entered by said specific user interface section, an input entering right allowing for acceptance of the operation input is transferred from the specific user interface section to said other user interface section than the specific user interface section (column 14,lines 51-67 – column 15,lines 1-10)

18. Regarding claim 23, Nomura teaches said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that in response to operation input(s) entered by said other user interface

section than the specific user interface section, the input entering right is transferred back to the specific user interface section (column 14,lines 52-67)

19. Regarding claim 24, Nomura teaches said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that in response to the operation input entered by said specific user interface section, input acceptance of said other user interface section than the specific user interface section is validated and input acceptance of the specific user interface section is invalidated (column 14,lines 52-67)

20. Regarding claim 25, Nomura teaches wherein: said plurality of user interface sections are arranged such that while changing the input acceptance state of said other user interface section than the specific user interface section a, a display state of at least one user interface section is changed (column 14,lines 52-67)

21. Regarding claim 26, Nomura teaches an image processing apparatus, comprising: a first image processing section for carrying out a processing of image data including a first display section; at least one second image processing section for carrying out a processing of image data, including at least one second display section and a plurality of user interface sections corresponding to the first display section and the at least one second display section for entering commands on said processing of image data (column 6,lines 27-30;fig 2;column 9,lines 24-33;column 10,lines 22-24).

Nomura teaches wherein said first and second display sections are arranged such that in response to a command entered at the user interface section corresponding to the first display section, a display state of the second display section is changed to be in a non-display state (column 10, lines 30-36).

Conclusion

1. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Burleson whose telephone number is 571-272-7460. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twlyer Haskins can be reached on 571-272-7404.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)?



Michael Burleson

Patent Examiner

KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER



February 2, 2007